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AMERICAN ART NEWS.

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The office of the AMERICAN ART NEWS is now prepared to procure for patrons and readers expert opinion at a nominal rate on pictures or art objects, to attend to the buying, restoration, framing, cleaning and varnishing of pictures, and to repair art objects, at reasonable rates.

In the interest of our readers, and in order to facilitate business, we are prepared to publish in our advertising columns, special notices of pictures and other art works, with reference to the individual desire of any owner or buyer to sell or purchase any particular example.

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ART IN KANSAS CITY.

Opposition to a proposal grant of some \$300,000 for the building of an Art Museum in Kansas City, by the City, having developed in the Common Council, leads a writer in the leading daily journal of the town to remark tersely, if not elegantly, "Art is on the bum in Kansas City." We should think it was!

A HOPEFUL SIGN.

The bill accompanying the petition for legislation in Massachusetts to establish a state art commission and to define its powers and duties, provides that the commission shall consist of five citizens of Massachusetts to be appointed by the Governor, by and with the consent of the Council. The commission is to serve without compensation.

The time will come when every state and every city will have its art commission. The sooner this blessed condition arrives, the better. This country has been saddled too long with alleged works of art which have be-

come eyesores. But because a Somebody of more or less distinguished proportions gave them, they have been tolerated until there is hardly a city in the United States which has not something in the art line for which it is obliged to make apologies.

COMMERCIALISM TAINTS ART.

The National Society of Mural Painters is said to be threatened with disruption because of the commercialism of many of its members. This emphasizes our contention that the growing commercialization of the country and especially of New York is not promising to the Nation's art interests.

MUSEUM FORTY YEARS OLD.

The fortieth anniversary of the incorporation of the Metropolitan Museum was celebrated Monday afternoon by a meeting of its corporation in the Bishop Gallery. A sketch of the work done by the museum was given by Joseph H. Choate, the only surviving member of the original Board of Trustees. George H. Comfort, director of the Syracuse Museum, a member of the committee which, in 1869, organized the Museum, Park Commissioner Stover, and Edward Robinson, acting director, also addressed the meeting.

The trustees elected for the term ending 1917 were J. Pierpont Morgan, Robert W. de Forest, and Frank D. Millet. Officers for the year ending Feb. 28, 1911, were elected: President, J. Pierpont Morgan; first vice-president, Joseph H. Choate; second vice-president and secretary, Robert W. de Forest; treasurer, Howard Mansfield.

In addition to the officers, as ex-officio members, an executive committee was chosen as follows: William L. Andrews, John L. Cadwalader, Daniel C. French, Henry Walters, William Church Osborn, Edward D. Adams, John W. Alexander and George Blumenthal.

E. D. Adams, George F. Baker, and Henry Clay Frick, with the secretary as the ex-officio member, were named for the finance committee, and for the auditing committee were chosen Harris C. Fahnestock, George A. Hearn and George Blumenthal.

THE WALPOLE SOCIETY.

"A new and limited society of men interested in art matters, which has recently been formed," says Mr. James G. Huneker in the New York Sun, "should be of interest to the Community of Arts, and had its first meeting with the opening of the Morgan Memorial Art Gallery at Hartford, Conn."

It was then proposed that the society should meet at dinner several times a year for consultation and advice, which was agreed to by the following collectors and connoisseurs: Dr. Theodore S. Woolsey, Albert Hastings Pitkin of Hartford, curator of porcelains at the Morgan Memorial Gallery; Dwight Blaney of Boston, Thomas B. Clarke of New York, Edwin Atlee Barber, director of the Pennsylvania Museum of Art at Philadelphia; Hollis French of Boston, H. H. Flagler of New York, C. H. Tyler, F. H. Bigelow, Samuel P. Avery, R. A. Canfield, George S. Palmer, R. T. H. Halsey and Henry W. Erving.

Besides New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Hartford, New Haven and Norwich collectors are represented in this membership. Mr. Erving was elected treasurer and Mr. Kent secretary at the organization meeting. The membership at present is limited to twenty-one.

NEWS ITEMS.

Mr. Hans Greven, of Berlin, who came over two months ago with a collection of eighty-four old pictures—which have been on exhibition in the galleries formerly leased by Mr. Julius Oehme, at No. 320 Fifth Ave., expects to sail on March 5. He has decided not to hold an auction sale of the pictures—which he contemplated for a time.

Luis Grener, the noted Spanish portrait, genre and landscape painter arrived from Barcelona, where he resides, this week, and is at the Hotel Astor. Señor Grener has brought with him several important canvases and will probably give an exhibition in New York very soon. He is a man of marked ability—a Prix de Rome winner—and his forceful original work is greatly admired in Europe. He is accompanied by his wife and two daughters.

The reception for which Paolo Fini-acchiario had issued invitations at his Bryant Park Studio in honor of the Italian Ambassador and Mme. Meyer des Planches, for Tuesday afternoon last, was postponed owing to a recent bereavement of the guests of honor.

A newly completed decorative painting by Kenyon Cox is on exhibition at the rooms of the Architectural League of New York, 215 West 57 Street, until March 2. This painting, which will be hung in the central hall of the Public Library of Winona, Minn., is entitled "The Light of Learning," and shows Learning as a seated female figure in a green robe, with attendant genii on either side. On her right are figures representing Romance, Poetry and Art, and on her left are Philosophy, History and Science. The composition, drawing and color are characteristic, which means, of course, that they are good.

The Rev. Newell Dwight Hillis, of Brooklyn, has purchased two more of Leon Dabo's paintings, "The Cloud" and "The Red Oak." "The Cloud" is one of the series Mr. Dabo painted in Woodstock, N. Y., this summer. "The Red Oak" is a nocturn characteristically delightful in tone and refined in color. Dr. N. McGee Waters has added to his collection of modern paintings Mr. Dabo's "Sunset—The Palsades." Mr. Wm. T. Evans recently purchased the "Sun and Mist" for the Montclair Museum.

A press view was given at the Lotos Club yesterday afternoon of the annual exhibition of pictures by artist members of the club. The usual private view and reception will be given this evening. Notice will be made next week.

The art property of the late Otto H. Bacher, artist and author, will be sold at the Anderson Auction Co.'s rooms, No. 12 East 46 St., Mar. 2, at 8:15 P. M. The collection was placed on exhibition to-day. It is rich in lithographs and sketches by Whistler.

PITTSBURGH.

The Pittsburgh Etching Club is showing at the Carnegie Library until March 1 a collection of some 40 etchings by Sir Seymour Haden, perhaps the most notable living representative of the art of etching.

A collection of recent paintings by Aston Knight is on exhibition at the Wunderly Galleries.

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OBITUARY.

Samuel D. Warren.

Samuel Dennis Warren died of apoplexy last week at his home in Dedham, Mass. Mr. Warren was the son of Samuel Dennis Warren, was born in 1852, graduated from Harvard in 1875 and from the law school in 1877. In 1899 he relinquished the law and became a paper manufacturer, with mills in Maine. His wife was Miss Mabel Bayard, daughter of Thomas F. Bayard, whom he married at Washington in 1883. She survives him with six children. Mr. Warren was long a trustee of the Boston Museum and a noted patron of art.

Henry Ulke.

Henry Ulke, who fought with Carl Schurz in the German Revolution in 1848 and fled to this country, is dead as the result of a fall at his home in Washington, D. C. He was well known as a portrait painter. His portraits of Presidents and Cabinet Ministers at Washington gained for him the Soubriquet of "Painter of Presidents." He was a personal friend of Abraham Lincoln. One of Mr. Ulke's best paintings was a portrait of President Grant, now in the White House. His last work was a portrait of Robert Ingersoll. Among his better known portraits are those of Secretaries Sumner, Chase and Stanton; James G. Blaine, John G. Carlisle and John Sherman. He painted the portraits of five Secretaries of War, now in the War Department Building.

He was born in Frankenstein, Silicia, Jan. 29, 1829.

Winckworth Allan Gay.

Winckworth Allan Gay, the landscape painter, died at West Hingham, Mass., on Wednesday, aged 88. He was born in West Hingham, Mass., on August 21, 1821, studied under Robert W. Weir, at West Point, and Tryon in Paris. He traveled extensively in the Far East in search of subjects.

BUFFALO.

Thirty-five pastels, mainly marines, by Charles Henry Fromuth, comprise the present exhibition at the Albright Art Gallery. Miss Cornelia Sage, the acting director, was in New York when the Folsom Galleries announced the coming exhibition of pastels by Fromuth and she arranged through them for the display before it left Paris. The subjects are mostly harbor scenes, showing groups of sardine boats, and are both artistic and beautiful. There is almost an endless variety in these pastels, in which Mr. Fromuth has evolved some beautiful color schemes. Several of the pastels are under consideration by prospective buyers.